

## PRESS STATEMENT:

*For Immediate Release*

Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends of Rotary are hailing the confirmation of Rotarian Emmanuel Katongole, a Past District Governor of Rotary D9214 and member of the Rotary Club of Muyenga in Kampala, Uganda, as the next Rotary International Director (RID) from Zone 22 (Africa). He will serve a two-year term beginning 1st July 2026 till 30th June 2028.

Welcoming the news, the incumbent, RID Daniel Tanase expressed his, "congratulations for the official nomination dear RIDN Emmanuel! It will be a pleasure and privilege to work with you. Enjoy the moment, it is well deserved!".

This declaration, made by the President of Rotary International Stephanie Urchick and confirmed in a letter from the CEO and Secretary-General of Rotary John Hewko, comes after the initial suggestion by his club for consideration, an assessment by a Director Nominations Committee in September where he was submitted as Africa's choice for the role. After circulation by the RI President and there being no objections from clubs in the Zone or a competing candidate, Emmanuel is now declared the Rotary International Director Nominee (RIDN). As per practice, while from Zone 22 (Africa), he will be championing the interests and promoting Rotary's growth also in Zone 21 (Eastern Europe and Middle East). Both Zones constitute the largest geographic region of Rotary and perhaps the most diverse.

Messages have poured in from across Rotary's Leadership in the Zone and beyond. Past RID Patrick Chisanga wrote, "It gives me the greatest delight to congratulate my brother Emmanuel Katongole on his confirmation as Director Nominee of our Zone. You can depend on me completely as you work to build upon the foundations that have been laid by those of us who have served before you". This sentiment was echoed by Past RI Vice President Yinka Babalola who said, "Emmanuel is not just a great choice but also a happy choice. He is in tune with our current realities and aspirations. I have no doubt Rotary in Africa and in our paired zone will thrive under his leadership". Trustee Ijeoma Okoro and Past Trustee Geeta Manek praised his appointment sharing that "he has demonstrated his love for our foundation and we know he will keep championing the cause". Former Trustee and Past RI Director Sam Okudzeto prayed, "may the blessings of the Lord strengthen and energize you as you prepare to lead Africa to Shine the African Light".

Service and Leadership are core values of Rotary and all members are called to Service Above Self. In excellent Rotary tradition, leadership development and seamless transitions are to be demonstrated and related skill developed in its members. RIDN Emmanuel is expected to immediately commence his orientation and planning for the new role to enable him to excel in this duty. Flanked by many Zone and Regional Leaders, he will support many more leaders to grow in Africa and beyond.

ISSUED: 09 Dec. 2024  
*PDG Victor P. K. Mensah,*  
*Communications and Media Coordinator,*  
*Rotary Zone 22 (Africa).*

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**NOTES:**

**01. About the Director Nominee**

Emmanuel Katongole, the Rotary International Director Nominee (RIDN), is a distinguished Rotarian for 28 years, business leader, and philanthropist with a legacy of impactful service. With extensive experience at international, regional, and district levels, he has championed peacebuilding, membership growth, and humanitarian initiatives. Notably, he chaired the TRF Peace Major Gifts Initiative, championed the establishment of the Makerere University Rotary Peace Center, raised significant funds for global peace efforts, and spearheaded the establishment of the Rotary Blood Bank at Mengo Hospital in Kampala, saving countless lives in Uganda. A visionary leader, Emmanuel has promoted innovative Rotary membership strategies, youth engagement, and Rotary’s public image, including authoring a widely acclaimed book on Rotary’s impact in Uganda. Beyond Rotary, he is a Co-Founder and Chairman of Africa’s first WHO-certified ARVs manufacturing plant and a recipient of numerous awards, including recognition as a Papal Knight and accolades for his leadership in health, entrepreneurship, and humanitarian efforts. Emmanuel envisions a dynamic and inclusive Rotary that drives meaningful global change.



**02. About Rotary’s Board of Directors:**

There are 17 Rotary International directors who are elected to serve two-year terms. Directors are expected to attend and participate in four board meetings annually, normally held at the World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA or in the vicinity of the annual international convention or the international assembly. Directors are also expected to attend an orientation program while directors-elect, and attend up to two Board meetings as observers. Directors are not eligible to be re-elected. Directors serve without compensation.

*(28.040. RI Board of Directors Job Description)*

*SOURCE: April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 120*

**03. About Rotary Zone 22 (Africa)**

Rotary Zone 22 encompasses all 20 Districts and all clubs in all countries across Africa. It is an administrative component of Rotary International, a global network of 1.4 million community leaders who *come together to create positive, lasting change in communities around the world*. Rotary members provide humanitarian service, promote peace, and advance goodwill, making a real difference in the lives of people both locally and internationally. For more information about Rotary International, Rotary Zone 22 (Africa) and its humanitarian efforts, visit [www.rotaryinafrica.org](http://www.rotaryinafrica.org).

**04. FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES and additional information, please CONTACT the following Rotarians:**

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Our Assistant Communications and Media Coordinators (ACMCs)

Our Regional Public Image Coordinators for Zone 22 (RPICs)

Our District Governors (DGs)

Our District Public Image Coordinators (DPICs)

**05. Rotary Leadership in Africa and Specific Area in Focus:**

<p>&gt; <b>ROTARY FOUNDATION</b> <b>Ijeoma Pearl Okoro</b> <i>Rotary Foundation Trustee, 2024-29</i> Member: Rotary Club of Port Harcourt, Nigeria</p>	<p>&gt;&gt; <b>AFRICA</b> <b>Daniel Tanase</b> <i>Rotary International Director Africa, 2024-26,</i> Member: Rotary Club Suceava Bucovina, Romania</p>	<p>&gt;&gt;&gt; <b>ROTARY INTERNATIONAL</b> <b>Stephanie Urchick</b> <i>President, Rotary International 2024-25</i> Member, Rotary Club McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA.</p>
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